

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

**Amendment
In the Claims**

1-22. Canceled

23. (currently amended) A method of making a milnacipran formulation comprising providing a milnacipran formulation that provides delayed ~~or~~ and extended release of milnacipran to produce a therapeutic effect over approximately 24 hours when administered to a patient in need, with diminished incidence or reduced intensity relative to ~~one or more immediate release milnacipran~~ side effects resulting from administration of the same dose of milnacipran administered in an immediate release formulation.

24. (currently amended) A method for delivering a therapeutic dose of milnacipran to a patient in need thereof, with diminished incidence or reduced intensity of common milnacipran side effects, comprising administering to the patient in need thereof a milnacipran formulation that provides delayed ~~or~~ and extended release of milnacipran to produce a therapeutic effect over approximately 24 hours when administered to a patient in need, with diminished incidence or reduced intensity relative to ~~one or more immediate release milnacipran~~ side effects resulting from administration of the same dose of milnacipran administered in an immediate release formulation.

25. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the side effect is nausea.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

26. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the side effects are selected from the group consisting of vomiting, headache, tremulousness, anxiety, panic attacks, palpitations, urinary retention, orthostatic hypotension, diaphoresis, chest pain, rash, weight gain, back pain, constipation, vertigo, increased sweating, agitation, hot flushes, tremors, fatigue, somnolence, dyspepsia, dysoria, nervousness, dry mouth, abdominal pain, irritability, and insomnia.

27. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein ~~the formulation has a milnacipran release profile that is characterized by release of~~ less than approximately 10% of the total milnacipran dose ~~over a period up to four hours, followed by a slow or extended drug release is released in one hour when the formulation is subjected to *in vitro* dissolution in 0.1 N HCl.~~

28. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~27~~ 24, wherein the ~~defined extended release of milnacipran is over a period of time that~~ is between approximately four and approximately twenty-four hours.

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the formulation provides milnacipran blood plasma levels that are characterized by T_{\max} at 4-10 hours, and C_{\max} below approximately 3000 ng/ml.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the formulation provides milnacipran blood plasma levels that are characterized by C_{\max} below approximately 2000 ng/ml.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

31. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the formulation provides milnacipran blood plasma levels that are characterized by C_{\max} below approximately 1000 ng/mL.

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the formulation further comprises at least one other active compound selected from the group consisting of analgesics, anti-inflammatory drugs, antipyretics, antidepressants, antiepileptics, antihistamines, antimigraine drugs, antimuscarinics, anxiolytics, sedatives, hypnotics, antipsychotics, bronchodilators, anti asthma drugs, cardiovascular drugs, corticosteroids, dopaminergics, electrolytes, gastro-intestinal drugs, muscle relaxants, nutritional agents, vitamins, parasymphomimetics, stimulants, anorectics, and anti-narcoleptics.

33. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the formulation comprises compounds selected from the group consisting of aceclofenac, acetaminophen, adomoxetine, almotriptan, alprazolam, amantadine, amcinonide, aminocyclopropane, amitriptyline, amolodipine, amoxapine, amphetamine, aripiprazole, aspirin, atomoxetine, azasetron, azatadine, beclomethasone, benactyzine, benoxaprofen, bermoprofen, betamethasone, bicifadine, bromocriptine, budesonide, buprenorphine, bupropion, buspirone, butorphanol, butriptyline, caffeine, carbamazepine, carbidopa, carisoprodol, celecoxib, chlordiazepoxide, chlorpromazine, choline salicylate, citalopram, clomipramine, clonazepam, clonidine, clonitazene, clorazepate, clotiazepam, cloxazolam, clozapine, codeine, corticosterone, cortisone, cyclobenzaprine, cyproheptadine, demexiptiline, desipramine, desomorphine,

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

dexamethasone, dexanabinol, dextroamphetamine sulfate, dextromoramide, dextropropoxyphene, dezocine, diazepam, dibenzepin, diclofenac sodium, diflunisal, dihydrocodeine, dihydroergotamine, dihydromorphine, dimetacrine, divalproex, dizatriptan, dolasetron, donepezil, dothiepin, doxepin, duloxetine, ergotamine, escitalopram, estazolam, ethosuximide, etodolac, femoxetine, fenamates, fenoprofen, fentanyl, fludiazepam, fluoxetine, fluphenazine, flurazepam, flurbiprofen, flutazolam, fluvoxamine, frovatriptan, gabapentin, galantamine, gepirone, ginkgo bilboa, granisetron, haloperidol, huperzine A, hydrocodone, hydrocortisone, hydromorphone, hydroxyzine, ibuprofen, imipramine, indiplon, indomethacin, indoprofen, iprindole, ipsapirone, ketaserin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, lesopitron, levodopa, lipase, lofepramine, lorazepam, loxapine, maprotiline, mazindol, mefenamic acid, melatonin, melitracen, memantine, meperidine, meprobamate, mesalamine, metapramine, metaxalone, methadone, methadone, methamphetamine, methocarbamol, methylidopa, methylphenidate, methylsalicylate, methysergid(e), metoclopramide, mianserin, mifepristone, milnacipran, minaprine, mirtazapine, moclobemide, modafinil, molindone, morphine, morphine hydrochloride, nabumetone, nadolol, naproxen, naratriptan, nefazodone, neurontin, nomifensine, nortriptyline, olanzapine, olsalazine, ondansetron, opipramol, orphenadrine, oxaflozane, oxaprazin, oxazepam, oxitriptan, oxycodone, oxymorphone, pancrelipase, parecoxib, paroxetine, pemoline, pentazocine, pepsin, perphenazine, phenacetin, phendimetrazine, phenmetrazine, phenylbutazone, phenytoin, phosphatidylserine, pimizide, pirlindole, piroxicam, pizotifen, pizotyline, pramipexole, prednisolone, prednisone, pregabalin, propanolol, propizepine,

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

propoxyphene, protriptyline, quazepam, quinupramine, reboxitine, reserpine, risperidone, ritanserin, rivastigmine, rizatriptan, rofecoxib, ropinirole, rotigotine, salsalate, sertraline, sibutramine, sildenafil, sulfasalazine, sulindac, sumatriptan, tacrine, temazepam, tetrabenazine, thiazides, thioridazine, thiothixene, tiapride, tiasipirone, tizanidine, tofenacin, tolmetin, tolaxatone, topiramate, tramadol, trazodone, triazolam, trifluoperazine, trimethobenzamide, trimipramine, tropisetron, valdecoxib, valproic acid, venlafaxine, viloxazine, vitamin E, zimeldine, ziprasidone, zolmitriptan, zolpidem, zopiclone and isomers, salts, and combinations thereof.

34. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the milnacipran is in the form of a therapeutically equivalent dose of dextrogyral or levrogyral enantiomers of the milnacipran or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

35. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the milnacipran is in the form of a therapeutically equivalent dose of a mixture of milnacipran enantiomers or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the milnacipran is in the form of a therapeutically equivalent dose of para-hydroxy-milnacipran (F2782), individual enantiomers of para-hydroxy-milnacipran, mixtures of enantiomers of para-hydroxy-milnacipran, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the ~~formulation further comprises an enteric coating~~ the delayed release is achieved by coating an extended release dosage form with at least one delayed release polymer which is insoluble in the acid environment of the stomach and is soluble in the neutral environment of the small intestine.

39. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the formulation comprises a milnacipran dose from 25 to 500 mg.

40. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the formulation comprises a milnacipran dose from 200 to 500 mg.

41. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 40 ~~39~~, wherein the formulation comprises 25 to 500 mg milnacipran and 100 to 600 mg modafinil.

42. (new) The method according to Claim 24, wherein less than approximately 10% of the total milnacipran dose is released in two hours when the formulation is subjected to *in vitro* dissolution in 0.1 N HCl.

43. (new) The formulation according to Claim 24 wherein the milnacipran rise in blood plasma upon administration to a human subject is delayed for at least half-an-hour when compared to that of the same dose of milnacipran administered in an immediate release formulation.